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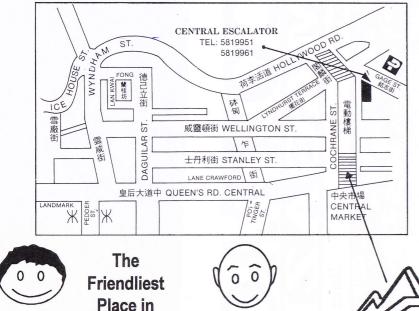
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## **KUNG HEI FAT CHOI**

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# The Fditor

Celebration on all fronts! Firstly, we wish all our readers a Happy and Prosperous 1994. Later in this double issue we wish everyone Kung Hei Fat Choi.

Last, but by no means least, it's our first birthday! It's difficult for us to believe it's a whole year since we launched Contacts Magazine. These days answering faxes, letters and phone calls from all over the world, and getting the magazine out on time every month keeps us fully occupied.

As our printers, in common with most others in Hong Kong, will be closing for two weeks over Chinese New Year we are printing a double issue - January/ February. The next issue will 15th March.

As there are three special offers to subscribers, in this issue alone, it makes sense for you to subscribe. And it's so easy! Just follow the simple steps – form on the inside back cover

#### **Happy Celebrations!**

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# Contents

The Editor	3
In my mind	4
Local News	7
World News	8
A sickness?	9
Review	14
Don't ask, Don't tell!	16
Contacts	20
Gay Guide	22

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### 心中話



每次見到 浩然我的 心跳便會 加速,每一 次見到他 的笑面我 一也會笑;但 每一次見 到他跟便 人有說有

笑時我便會嫉妒,而且還會特意地 整惱他,我知道我已經愛上了 他,愛上一個我不應該愛的人;我 不知道是對還是錯,可能在世俗人 的眼中我是一個罪孽深重的罪 人;但假如愛一個人是要承受這樣 大的痛苦,那麼就讓我承擔吧!

「喂,喂....」他很氣地率下 電話,已經是第三次了,每當他拿 起電話筒總是沒有人說話.但他可 知道,正當他氣呼呼的時候那邊廂 正有人默默地爲他落淚.他正是那 個作弄人的傢伙;他不是想尋開 心,或是作弄他人;只是有些事實 在難於啓齒,

祥興跟浩然已經做了兩年的朋 友,由不相識到現在已經是一對無 所不談的好友;但今次的事跟以往 的有很大分别.是他心底裏的說 話,埋藏在他心裏很久很久想說出

來的話,只有五個字的說話;就是 「浩然我愛你」,自第一次見到浩 然那俊朗的面孔開始,已經被他深 深吸引.他知道不應該有這種感 覺,但越是控制自己的感情;越是 被他吸引,到了如今已是泥足深 陷;不能自拔的境界了.在工作方 面,也因感情的困擾而屢次犯 錯;亦給上司警介過說:「這是最 後一次機會.」他嘗試忘記浩 然,但不成功;相反對他的思憶更 深更濃,今天晚上他決定跟浩然說 得明明白白,就算他不接受自 己;也讓自己死心;不再做白日 夢,但每當浩然的聲音從電話筒內 傳來總是開不了口.

今次他又再次打電話給浩然.他鼓 氣最大的勇氣說:「浩然,是我祥 興呀!可不可以現在出來喝杯東 西:我有些事想跟你談.」浩然知 道一定發生了什麼事,要不然祥興 也不會這樣晚了還叫他出外.所以 他問明在那處等便立即更衣出外.

到達時,浩然只見祥興手持香煙及 喝著酒,但兩者都是祥興平時不沾 之物;而且還眼定定地望著前 方, 浩然想今晚一定發生了很大的 事情,但他又可曾想到祥興之所以 會變成這樣完全是爲了他. 浩然並 沒有阻止祥與渴酒抽煙,雖然酒和 煙皆是穿腸之物;但當你雖要它們

之時,它們從不說一個不字,可以 說是最佳的伙伴,浩然問祥興發生 了什麼事,祥興並沒有回答,自管 自地渴他的酒,抽他的煙.浩然再 次問他發生了什麼事,他依然不 語;不過他的眼神就沒有一刻離開 過浩然的面孔,在心中,他不知說 了千萬遍「浩然我愛你」這五個 字.但面對著他總是開不了口. 浩然氣了說:「祥興你再不說什麼 事,我便立刻走.」祥興還是閉 口. 但當他看到浩然真的想走 時,他終於開口;他眞的不想再拖

下去了,他要在今天的晚上解决「

「浩然,我問你愛是不是罪?」

「愛,當然不是罪.愛是神聖 的,世間上再沒有任何事比愛還純 潔。

祥興微笑地說:「那麼愛,有沒有 分別呢?

「當然有,世間上有不同形識的 愛:父母親對孩子的愛;手足的 愛;男女間的愛;夫婦間的愛,像 我們之間的是友愛...

「浩然,你所提及的都是一般人所 承認的、所認同的,但有些愛是世 人所岐視的,如同性相愛,他們視 之爲不道德,是變態的.而你的看 法又是怎樣呢!

「我已經說過,愛是沒有罪,任可 愛都是一樣,沒有分別;就算是同 性相愛只要他們是真心的,那又可 雖理會其他人的說話,祥興如果你 叫我出來只是想對我說你是一個

同性戀者,我並不介意.因爲我所 接受的是你本人;而不是你的性取 向.相信我,無論你是怎樣的一個 人,我們還是一對好朋友;一對無 所不談的朋友.」

祥興有點高興,只少他不會失去這 個朋友.「浩然,不單止我是一個 同性戀者這樣簡單;我.....我 愛上了你...

浩然聽到『愛上你』這三個字,真 的不知道應該說什麼才對;因爲自 己並不是一個同性戀者,又怎可能 會愛上祥興呢!他沒有再說什 麼,只有默默地低著頭;一副不知 所操的樣子。

最後還是由祥興先開口說:「我知 道.你是不會接受我的愛,只因你 愛的不是他;而是她.我亦不會怪 你,只是在沒說前還帶有一點希 望,現在連這個希望也沒有了.祗 剩下一點點的回憶.但這也是一個 好事,我亦無雖再生活在希望之 中, 浩然我們還是朋友嗎?」

他肯定的說:「當然是」」

「但我並不知道自己可不可以做 到將我對你的愛情,轉爲友情.我 希望可以做得到,因爲我不想失去 這個朋友;浩然,在這個時期我可 能雖要你的支持;你可以幫我 嗎?

「當然可以」」

龍子

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# Local News

The AIDS on Screen poster exhibition at the Arts Centre in December drew some unwanted publicity. The HK Standard ran a story on 10th December saying 'several posters have been removed from the exhibition because they were deemed to be "pornographic".

Freddie Wong, manager of the film department of the Arts Centre told us "noone said they were pornographic, but we did have a complaint from a hirer of the Shouson Theatre that the children attending their function might find some of the posters unsuitable". "The posters are still in the exhibition but in a different area".

- Gene Swinstead, general manager of the South China Morning Post, said in a recent radio interview on RTHK that he "doesn't want his 8 and 10 year old daughters to know about AIDS". He went onto say that "it wasn't appropriate to have a front cover of the TV Times showing condoms, after all this is a family magazine". A very strange thing to say on World AIDS Day! Surely Swinstead couldn't have read pages 4 and 5 of the same issue that carried stories of sex, orgies, crossdressing, and a dated item on Jeanclaude Van Damme, playing a gay man in the 1985 "Monaco Forever'.
- Aids Concern's Lisa Ross recently resigned as full time Executive Director. Lisa will continue with AIDS Concern on a part time basis until her successor has been appointed and settled into the job. May we be the first to offer our



Pornographic?

thanks to Lisa Ross for her hard work and dedication in helping educate people about AIDS over the past 18 months. We wish her every success in her new company, Information for Life, dealing with AIDS in the workplace

Mardi Gras. As the trip organiser Anthony told us "there are a number of people interested but they have still to confirm their places". "We're still accepting other applications on a first come first served basis". Anyone who wants more information contact Anthony on 540–7343.

If your Club, Bar, or Group is having a special event please let us know. The closing date for the next issue is 3rd March.

# World News

#### Australia

● The New South Wales police force is considering joining Australia's biggest street parade—Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. A proposal for a float in the annual one-day parade was made by local officers.

#### France

● Long Yang Club — Paris has been officially launched at a party ceremony in the French capital. The 'East—West' gay group meets weekly at "Envogue" bar in Paris every Wednesday and has its own magazine "Le Long Yang Courries". Meanwhile, discussions have started for a Long Yang Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

#### **Philippines**

● Gays in the Philippines now have a new gay support group, the "Library Foundation". You can contact them by writing to P.O. Box 1502, 1155 Quezon City (they also have a gay helpline service.) Alternatively, write to the Library puls 1779 Adriahio., St. Malate, Manila to ask for more details.

#### Switzerland

● Swing 94, an international gay skiing week, will take place between March, 19th and 26th in Lenzerheide, Switzerland. And participants from eight countries, including Australia, are expected. For details, write to Swing 94 c/o Jurgpeter Huber, Wagnerweg 8, CH–8810 Horgen, Switzerland.

#### UK

Richard
Branson, the British business tycoon, who owns
Virgin Airlines
soon to be flying
into Hong Kong,
used to be a major-



Richard Branson

ity shareholder in Heaven the largest (and best) gay night club in London.

Former soldier Colin Ireland was sentenced to life in prison in December after admitting to being the serial killer who stalked London's homosexual community and murdered five men. Ireland, 39, pleaded guilty to five charges of murder at the start of his trial in London's Central Criminal Court. Prosecutor John Nutting said Ireland set out to become a serial killer, telling people he would have to kill at least four people to be classified as one. He said the murders were "premeditated and meticulously planned". Ireland strangled or suffocated the men in their London homes between March 8 and June 15. Each time, he telephoned police, a national newspaper or a suicide hotline with precise details of the crime. He also threatened to kill a new victim every week.

#### Vientiane

Concerts took place in various sites in Vientiane on the World Day Against AIDS, on December 1, to increase public awareness about the fatal disease in a joint effort by the National Committee Against AIDS, the Institute for Epidemiology, and the World Health Organisation

# 同性戀是否心理病態?

陳達權-美國心理學學士及加拿大心理輔導系碩士.

張賢惠-臨床心理學家及心理學導 師.

十八世紀中葉,心理學始祖之一弗洛依德(Sismund Freud),對人類成長理論作出深入鑽研,並著重由出生至六歲時期孩童發展爲基礎,引伸整套成長理論,而伸延出多項變化,包括戀母情結及同性戀.這位於一八五六年出生於奧地利猶太商心理學家的「同性戀理論」世紀被受爭議,他曾發表研究理論時表示,同性戀部份成因,乃出孩童時期成長期境遇因素而發展至後期的自戀及戀母情結而成.

陳達權說:整套弗洛依德對同性戀 行為探索確實難以找到實例,純粹 是弗的推論報告,在程度上,當時 弗乃視同性戀爲一種病態.直至一 九三九年弗世逝後仍起著無數大 小爭議,其中多項仍離不開同性戀 是否病態,先天或後天等論據.

一九五二年由全美國多位心理學 界權威同共作修訂的「精神病例 手冊」(SDM: Diagnostic&Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder)由「美國 精神病協會」(American Psychiatric Association)出版,把同性戀納入作 精神變態心理病來研究.即使如此,醫學界及心理學家仍不斷對此項決定提出質疑,直至一九八八年,由美國費文(Richard CFriedman)經耶魯大學發表一套完整的理論(註一),以自然科學角度著入,並以



張賢惠:香港人不斷爭取自 由民主,但居然仍對同性戀 抱甚狹窄觀念.

多理實證性非.當理之研項分例實戀病成今學權究心析來同並態爲心界威報

告 . 另

外賈力畢 (Kernberg, O.) 在一九七五發表研究同性戀與異性戀者的心理結構,以實例分析其原整性和病理均無異樣,結論亦是否定同性戀爲病態.相顯之下看到弗洛依德當時對同性戀行爲研究的理論實在缺乏事實與數據的支持而浮於個人理論化

一九七八年「美國精神病協會」 出版第三修訂版的「精神病例手冊」時正式刪除有關同性戀之所 有項目.陳達權續說:「在香港因 同性戀問題而要求心理輔導者低 於百份之一,由於同性戀在心理學 角度來說並非病態,作爲專業人員 的操手,則會著重來者當前所面對 使其心理有障礙和不偷快的原 因.例如對方感到因自己的性愛傾 向而導致壓力,則作爲輔導者便會 協助他去了解壓力的來由及引導 當事人如何接受自己來著手.



兩立學者均表示,不論同性與異性戀者當面對自身價值、感情、感度和二人生活的問題實無大異,而事實上,同性戀者卻往往因社會會施以岐視眼光,以有色眼鏡猜度無大說時視眼光,以有色眼壁力戶。 使他們都活在較一般人之間相處所有時多難以找專業輔導資源沒有的現像,當面對二人之間求決有時時多難以找專業輔導資源沒任何政府部門,這是社會資源沒依沒有時分配的現像,縱使同性戀者依沒有在他們身上做些什麼,例如以推廣 公民教育來使社會更正對同性戀的歧視,更遑論在由一般婚姻隨之而取得的社會福利,諸如申請公屋或選擇一同或分開報稅等.另外,雙方家長不接受和認同,亦是對相處係的價值一大打擊.陳表示,統計數字亦顯示,婚姻如得不到雙方家長的認同,其離婚個案較

性戀者一份無奈的痛苦,而這類不公平對待有如十多二十年前世人對同居、離婚亦抱有岐視眼光一樣,有待社會開放和接受,但同性戀者則不要因被環境拒絕而否定自身價值.並且應在適當機會下解放自己令外間人多了解.

註一: Male homosexuality: A Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspective by Richard Friedman, M.D.

成邦 (特約研究員)





# Young Lesbians Report

By Leonie

The Young Lesbian Report. A study of the Attitudes and Behaviours of Adolescent Lesbians Today.

This Report is for Lesbians everywhere, in fact, for society in general. Vic Barbeler's study of the attitudes and behaviours of adolescent Lesbians shows we have a lot to address in the education of all peoples concerning Lesbians.

Covering a broad range of issues from the mental and physical health of young Lesbians to the discrimination and alienation felt by them in both hetero and homosexual society, Barbeler's study illustrates the problems and proposes strategies of which we should all take heed. The empirical data is clear and concise, the figures revealing such alarming statistics as the 47.5% attempted suicide rate of young Lesbians and the elevated incidence of drug and alcohol abuse. The detailed study further covers areas from demographics to Lesbian Motherhood. All comment and information are thorough and make for important reading.

Recommendations of the Report include establishing social supports where assistance can be readily available when sought, providing in-service training for those who work in the areas of health, teaching and welfare, and providing positive role models for Lesbians (and gays) in such components of society as the school curriculum. Disappointingly, only 21% of young Lesbians feel that there is support within the wider Lesbian community. As women who receive minimal or no support in the repressive puritanism of wider patriarchal society, Barbeler also stresses the importance of raising Lesbian awareness to the detrimental manifestations of internalised homophobia (and the effect this has on our community).

We have all at some stage been made to feel not comfortable due to the fact that we have chosen to love each other as women. The Report is a statement telling us that before further damage is caused we must embark upon a search for who we really are and who we want to be, not to create fresh horrors of the kind we though we'd left back in patriarchy. As Barbeler summarizes, "(Young) Lesbians are an integral part of our human diversity...who have everything to offer in the development of modern society. We have nothing to gain as a society from jeopardising the lives of our young."

(Published by courtsey of Lesbian Network.)



# Oppression

#### **Eliminating Lesbian Internalised Oppression**

Lesbians are good women. We do remarkable things with our lives. We are deeply committed to getting things right in the world. We work to eliminate racism, sexism, child abuse, the rape of the earth and every other injustice we recognise. We name wrongs, heal hurts, create new paths, and bring new awareness to the world. No wonder we present such a threat to the status quo.

Yet we are held back from achieving what we are capable of We commence new ventures with vision and excitement, and as they collapse we experience disappointment and devastation. We wonder if something is wrong with us, that it failed. We feel unsupported, misunderstood. We find ourselves critical of the efforts of others, and can easily dismiss them as too radical, too conservative, too out, too closeted, too femocrat, too rough. This is internalised oppression.

I've been doing some thinking about how internalised oppression happens, and am now ready to share it with you. This article looks at how it is installed, and what we can do about it. It's not a complete analysis or a final solution. It's intended as a working paper on which I want you to feel free to build your own ideas. Our internalised oppression holds us firmly cemented in a box which hides our gifts, limits our possibilities, and keeps us separated from each other. We suffer from this, and so does the world.

I want us to see internalised oppression clearly for what it is, attack it and eliminate it from our community. Then the forces of oppression in the world will find themselves crumbling.

#### How It Works

This is an oppressive society. It operates in the following way: To be OK you have to be white, respectable, employed, heterosexual, and preferably male.

Your degree of OK'ness is graded according to how many of these criteria you meet. So if you are a heterosexual white man with a good job and all that goes with it to make up "respectable" (wife, house, car, nice clothes, etc.) then you are quite OK. Very O.K. if you've got lots of money. Very, very OK if you've got power as well.

It's a little bit OK if you're all the above, but a woman. Not so OK if you're unemployed, even less OK if your clothes get shabby and you lose your confidence: and pretty damn un-OK if you become homeless.

Lesbian is definitely un-OK.

There's a fence around the people who pass the un-OK elimination test. There are gates along the fence and people move in and out. Lose your job and you're out. Be a woman and be very very good and you're in. Be black and be very very very good and pretend to be like us and we'll see. Be Lesbian and you're out.

Be Lesbian and hide it, and be very very good and may be you'll get by. You can be out because you've failed (lost your job), out because you're wrong (you're black or a Jew), or out because you're abnormal (you're Lesbian, or you have a disability). If you haven't got a job, are black and Lesbian, then you're really on the edge.

The fence is held up by the people inside. It's in their interests for it to stay there. The people in danger of losing their place on the inside work very hard to hold it up. "Get out" they say. "You don't belong in here. You're not OK." They live in terror that someone will point at them and say the same. Lies, misinformation and stereotypes are manufactured

"... see internalised oppression clearly for what it is, attack it and eliminate it"

and passed on by those inside about those outside. "Anyone who really wants a job can get one" they say, denying the reality of more unemployed than position vacant. "Dirty, lazy, alcoholic." "Sick, perverted, abnormal."

#### How It's Rationalised

Here's how the oppressive thinking goes: There's more than enough to go round. But I want more than my share. I can get it if I can convince enough people that some people don't deserve their share. I'll convince the people like me that the people who are not like us are strange, or bad, or weak. I'll make it difficult for people to see each other's humanity, to

meet or communicate. We'll foster suspicion, jealousy, hatred between them. So the oppressive society rests on people's beliefs that others are less OK than them, and therefore deserve less. And it is internalised oppression when people accept that others are more OK than them and therefore deserve more.

Let's see how that works in the Lesbian community

First there's the silence. Nobody says anything about the possibility of loving other women. There's no such thing. There must be something wrong with me - I'm a freak. I'm the only person in the world who feels this way. Next there's the lies. Lesbians can't get a man, are sick, do unnatural things. We hear.

And the misinformation. Lesbians are miserable, cannot have fulfilled lives, will end their days lonely, frustrated, bitter. And finally stereotypes. If you're a Lesbian you must be either butch or femme, and dress and act accordingly. You'll jump from relationship to relationship, drink far too much, and probably go mad, needing aversion therapy to cure you. Men will laugh at you, women be afraid of you and children taunt you.

All that's hard to live with. We are hurt badly by it.

Remarkably, we continue to choose to follow our hearts, to live our lives in accordance with our sense of what is right. We retain our humanness, living rich, powerful, dignified, joyful lives in the face of the oppression.

#### Bev Henwood

(To be continued in the March Issue)

### Nicaragua: Sodomy Law

The new Nicaraguan penal code (including the anti sodomy law-Article 204) was signed by President Chamorron in July and published in late October. Article 204 mandates prison sentences of one to three years for anyone who "induces, promotes, propagandises, or practices in a scandalous manner, the cohabitation of individuals of the same sex." An additional prison term of two to four years is the penalty for the crime of "illegitimate seduction." A Managua coalition of individuals from gay or lesbian and women's groups, civil liberty's law years and other human rights advocates (the Campaign for Sexuality without Prejudices) presented a challenge to the constitutionality of Art. 204 to the Supreme Court on November 9th. The coalition asks for international pressure to strengthen their chances for victory. The government will try to convince the Supreme Court that Art. 204 will not apply "scandalous behaviour" in a discriminatory manner, and that the law's intention is merely to protect children from the promotion of homosexuality as natural. The law not only violates the right to privacy, which is constitutionally guaranteed in Nicaragua (Art. 11), but also curtails the freedoms of assembly, expression, and speech by criminalising anything construed as "promoting "homosexuality (this may include AIDS education, gay and lesbian organisations, and any portrayal or discussion of lesbian or gay relationships in books, newspapers, or on screen).





記得剛購置一部私人電腦時,什麼也不懂;就連開關制也不知在那處.雖然如此,但當電腦駁上了電源及開啓時,那種雀耀萬分之情並非筆墨所能形容.後來買了一本教人用電腦的書,便依樣畫胡蘆;什麼系統建構,自動執行批,在整電腦壞了方肯罷休.回想起來都覺有點兒過份;我不應盡信書本上的內容,而不明其理便開始我的電腦革命吧!

實質上,每一樣的事物都有他的開始,事物會有新陳代謝;同性戀的社圈亦有,試想想每一天會有多少新人加入這個圈子,而這些新青力。他們個都是年間,他們個都是年間,他們個都是年間。一切風險來嘗試初內一時會不管遇過的新事情,最危險的一群,縱現在有限多傳媒都一樣然現在有限多傳媒都一種,縱然現在有限多傳媒都一種,縱然現在有限多傳媒都會看到他們是如何買力地推行

反愛滋病的喧傳.但他們的喧傳大都是提倡在性愛前一定要載上安全套,或是不可以濕吻.....等等.

總言之大體上的喧傳都是叫你不可以做這,不可以做那樣,什麼也不可以做.試想想假如閣下只準你弟妹溫習書本及做家課.他們會聽從你的意思做嗎?

然而在這個圈久了,他們會不知道 什麼事是可以做,什麼事是不應該 做的嗎?但那些新進的小伙子什麼 都想一試,才能夠了卻他們心頭 願,但那些喧傳實在太過誇大其詞 了.什麼也不能做;他們爲何不教 導他們什麼事情是可以做,讓他們 自己來制定一個界線;好讓他們不 致於盲頭蒼蠅亂衝亂撞,直至碰下 致於盲頭蒼蠅亂衝亂撞,直至個階 段己經爲遲已晚了.

所以小伙子們不要因一時的衝動;或認為自己年青力壯,那些病毒便不會這樣容易傳染;這你就大錯特錯了.它不會因為你年青力壯便給予你特權,在它們之下人人平等;而且現在還沒有藥物可以醫治,所以做什麼事情也要三思而後行.

平凡

# Old and Grey and Young and Gay?

Ah, sweet mystery of youth! Would that I were young again. I mean really young, before five o'clock shadow has cast its green die,. What would I do? Would I make the same mistakes, be blind to my gauche gormlessness? Perhaps even unrepentently impudent? I recall the words of the song "Why do fools fall in love?". Indeed, why do they? Not fools, surely, but men of indeterminate years trying to recapture their youth by aiming Cupid's shaft at the first passing pubescent fancy. Harsh words, you think? 'Tis a startingly real fact that we all seek to resurrect life as it used to be. More folly for us who will never again nestle our gnarled hands on smooth cheeks. But enough morbid recollections...

As providence would have it sometimes, life throws upon some of us the bloom of youth in the guise of a guy who, for some inexplicable reason, chooses to dig his lot in with a father-figure. Glory, glory be. There's nothing that awakens the sagging libido like a partner who rears his legs at the flip of a love-maker's manual. But what of the long-term promises?"Will he still love you when you're 64?"He might, and it's a great big might. More than likely, he will have skipped long before you get your bus pass. What is the moral in this here yarn?

None really that anyone will listen to and take heed. I pray that I shall have my marbles in enough shape to enjoy the brief sojourn and kiss him good-bye without remorse and woeful self-pity. Easier said than done. But, of course. But what will you do? It's difficult enough to cruise an elephant's graveyard day after day only to find other dying elephants barely able to lift their trunks. Why should an old fool be prudent? Such a contradic-

tion in terms. I say this to all you good senior citizens. Fall in love - or at least allow yourself to be fallen in love with at full tilt - enjoy your brief rejuvenation but please, please do not pin too much hope for the happy-ever-aftering. This for the simple reason that his happy-ever-after is a good many decades more than yours and hardly the twain shall meet.

No, I'm not being a doomwatcher. I've just been commiserating with a few comrades kicking themselves in the butt, mortified and horrified at being dumped by their - for want of a more polite word - toyboys. This after pulling out the stops, signing cheques carte blanche and generally being a silly old codger over a young lover. To be fair, it is often a genuine case of January-December romance but such as it is, even solid-state love will have to stand the test of inevitable incompatibility. He likes BROS and you adore DUKE ELLINGTON. He wears trainers and you wear monogrammed bedroom slippers. And

will your silk dressing-gown hang comfortably with his hip-hop gear? He's Top of the Pops and you're just pop. Or soon will be. Not just your socks but your whole being. Will his eyes gleam as they once did at the sight of your liversplotched epidermis? What of the energy levels? When your idea of a knees-up is downing a bottle of claret while watching I Love Lucy re-runs ... and his?...Oh wow! Could you manage a three-hour concert of Status Quo at Wembley? I have seen (indeed I have done it myself) the most excruciating accommodating in these stakes and some of them coming away feeling like a coronary coming on. No guesses which ones. As it is far from a perfect world and romance, love and passion draws no neat lines, the inevitable never precludes deep-thinking on the part of a young lover. Why should he even if youth is capable of profound consideration? So where does that leave the "old man"? The truth is like a bucket of cold water. The hitherto endearing term now smacks of sinister vibes for "old man" is now a statement of disgruntlement. And no amount of royal jelly, vitamin E - even sheep's cells - is going to rejuvenate the other non-genetic areas. It will be an exceptional young man who can see through the veil of advancing years for the heart that is golden within, the stuff of Hollywood movies. It doesn't help that the whole world seems bent on endorsing the youth kick. Media smacks of it. Like the endless lines about "not being able to get it up". Sadly, too often getting your pecker up is the endall and be-all of life. So we go out and try everything from starch to wiring to keep up our end of the bargain. Pubescence

equals constant tumescence and no messing about. Often it doesn't even matter if your face has fallen apart like the Berlin Wall. Nor the fact that you are filthy rich. An erection! An erection! My kingdom for an erection!

What's even more woeful is the fact that hurt is hurt, no matter that you're sixteen or sixty-six. Something that few young people will acknowledge with any sympathy. Friends will cluck and say that you simply were asking for it. What did you expect? Falling in love with someone half your age? I resent this. Every one has a right to fall in love regardless of cracking joints or arthritic fingers that may take a little longer to get there.

I say the oldsters band together and form some sort of protective amour against this blasted fate. Like how? When I suggested once to a friend that he should forget the adolescents but concentrate on his peer group and he snorted at me. Snorted! It was no use my rationalising with him that it is unfair to consider that someone his own age is well past it. For isn't he in the same boat? Alas, we are such old fools are we not? We like to think we are different somehow from that other geezer nodding in the far corner of the pub. And what is he smiling about? Does he know something we don't? Perhaps. Or that he's simply wiser by dint of being older. Alas, so few of us are when it comes to love. Or want to be. Oh well, hot ribena and bedroom slippers. The only clock you can turn back is winter daylight saving time. Small comfort but it's still an hour's extra sleep for dem old bones!

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Would it not be strange, terrible funny
If the straights were queer
and the queers were straight,
And majority becomes minority
And minority becomes majority?

The world would turn upside down and inside out, A choc-a-block confusion tumbling about, With straights bewildered for daring to come out, And queers rejoicing in freedom to make-out.

Then strictly same-sex loving would be condoned, Straights be excluded, forced to be closeted, Made to live freely only few times a week, To mask up their affections and be discrete.

All for the sake of those who refuse to see That the difference is another way to be, It is as valid and not as they decree To be a sinful and unnatural way to be.

Instead of acceptance, there is oppression, They clamour for rights, demand libations, While the queers look on with incomprehension, Amazed at the fuss and useless commotion.

Would the world not be strange, terribly queer? Would the straights be angry at how much they fear The scorn each time they kiss the ones they hold dear? They would see how absurd they themselves appear.

Camille Ho

# Review

M. Butterfly with John Lone and Jeremy Irons. Directed by David Cronenberg.

The story is based on a factual one. In 1986 a French diplomat, Rene Gallimard, was tried and sent to prison for spying for China whilst based at the French Embassy in Beijing. In his defence Gallimard maintained he only did it under duress because the Chinese held his son.

Not a very amazing story so far, is it? But then came the news that set all Europe agog at the time-Gallimard's lover, of 20 years, was a man! Gallimard always maintained that he was unaware, even though sex between them was "never very satisfactory" that Shi Pei Pu was a man.

Frankly, the real story takes some believing the film doesn't even come close to making you believe that Gallimard could possibly have been duped for all those years. Lone is never convincing as a woman, with, what looks like, a cheap wig and cheong sam. Irons, who has some very good roles to his name, is



John Lone ... an uncovincing M.Butterfly.

wasted in the role of Gallimard. He seems to wander from scene to scene without knowing what's happening to him.

In our opinion you'd be better off not seeing this film, such a waste of your time. A pity it was great when it played on the stage.

Danny Wong



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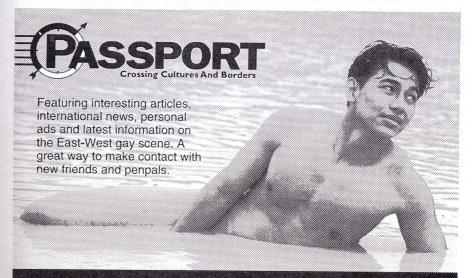
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# Don't ask, Don't tell!

Ban on homosexuals in US military lifted



Gays and lesbians are allowed to serve the US military following President Bill Clinton's move to lift the 50-year-old ban on homosexuals in the armed forces in July last year.

However, Mr Clinton's "Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy derives important elements from the original ban and differs only slightly from the old rules.

Shortly after taking office in January 1993, Mr Clinton who faced strong criticism in the controversial issue, announced a six-month compromise, in which new recruits was no longer asked if they were homosexual or bisexual; and armed service members who were gay, while still subject to discharge proceedings, could not be thrown out altogether.

The compromise, indeed, had sketched out the framework for the new law which

was effective on July 15, last year.

Under the administration's policy, military personnel can no longer be asked about their sexual orientation but can be dismissed for acknowledging their homosexuality. Specific regulations to enforce the new law on gays serving in the military are outlined, saying homosexuality is not a bar to service but forbidding homosexual conduct.

Outlawed sexual act include "touching a person of your same sex or allowing such a person to touch you for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires," and gives the example of handing holding, kissing or other physical conduct.

Though the ban has been lifted since last July, many in the military disipline and in Congress still favour the ban and say that its end can undermine morale and military. Top military officers truly believe that allowing gays to serve openly will wreak morale, undermine recruiting, provoking resignations, increase the spread of AIDS and generally corrode "good order and discipline".

Openly gay Marine Sergeant Justin Elzie argued that the ban could successfully be abolished without detriment to military effectiveness or discipline.

Other experienced service veterans, including heterosexuals and gays who are out, also disputed this view arguing that gays have served effectively in the past and could continue do so in the future.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul Gilberry said that as long as his shipmates did their job well, he did not care if they were homosexual or heterosexual.

"I can trust a homosexual as well as anyone else to bring me a fire extinguisher in a casualty situation," he said.

It is believed there are already thousands, probably tens of thousands, of gays in the military. More than 12,000 have been discharged in the last decade.

Mr Clinton, who made the pledge during the election campaign, met a significant majority opposition from the military officers who condemned the plan to lift the ban on the homosexuals in the armed forces would disrupt their combat readiness. Retired Army General Norman Schwarzkopf, who led the Allied forces to victory in the 1991 Gulf War, arguing for the retention of the ban said that such a measure would have on the men and women of the armed forces and the resultant reduction in the nation's ability

to protect the vital interest.

"Whether we like it or not, in my years of military service, I've experienced the fact that the introduction of an open homosexual into a small unit immediately polarises that unit and destroys the bonding that is so important for the unit's survival in time of war.

"In every case that I'm familiar with," he said, "and there are many, when it became known in a unit that someone was openly homosexual, polarisation occurred, violence sometimes followed, morale broke down and unit effectiveness suffered," Mr Schwarzkopf said.

Former US President George Bush had expressed his opposing views to homosexuality in the presidential election. He said he could not accept lesbian and gay parents as "normal".

"Ibelieve in the traditional family value," Mr Bush said. A Los Angeles Times poll reveals there are still a majority against homosexuals in the US military.

It shows that 74 per cent of military enlistees questioned did not approve of allowing gays and lesbians to service in the armed forces.

Eight-one per cent said they believed gays and lesbians would be subjected to physical attacks by fellow military enlistees if the ban were lifted.

About 63 per cent said they were not willing to share living quarters with openly gay military enlistees and 40 per cent opposed the policy because they believed homosexuality was "immoral".

(Sources SCMP, U.P., New York Times)

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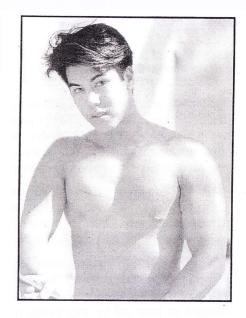
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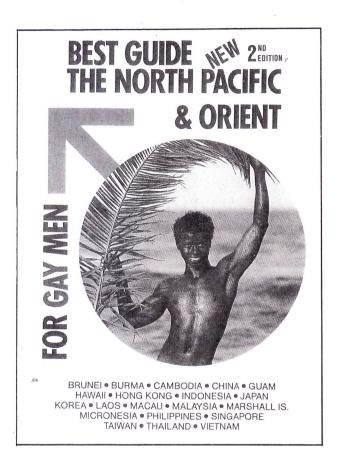
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